*[English]*

**Local Loop Proposal**

5336. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the newsitem "DoT's experts doubt local proposal" appeared in the 'Times of India' dated March, 19, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to get the appropriate returns from the projects of over Rs. 300 crore for wireless in local loop?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A proposal for providing Wireless in Local Loop in 18 cities was considered. From the available figures the cost per line of Wireless in Local Loop was found to be marginally higher compared to the cost of wired line of 3.5 kms. In view of the fact that the prices of Wireless in Local Loop are coming down and considering its cost effectiveness for longer distances and technological advantages such as speed of provision, reliability etc. the proposal to invite tenders for procurement has been approved.

**Cosmopolitan**

5337. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a foreign monthly magazine cosmopolitan published by New Delhi—based Living Media Group as appeared in the 'Observer of Business and Politics', New Delhi dated January 13, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the follow-up action taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) A magazine by the title 'Cosmopolitan' is published by M/s Living Media India Limited, New Delhi.

(b) to (d) The Ministry of Finance has reported that they have given their concurrence for payment of royalty by M/s Living Media India Limited at the prescribed rate of 15% (inclusive of guarantees) on the Indian published price fo reprinting of the magazine 'Cosmopolitan' of M/s Hearst Corporation of USA. The matter is being further examined by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in consultation with concerned authorities.

**Abolition of Post of Ticket Collectors**

5338. SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to abolish the post of Ticket Collectors;

(b) if so, when such a decision was taken; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not filling up these posts in Howrah, Sealdah, Asansol, Kharagpur and Adra Divisions of Indian Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Steps taken to fill up the vacancies include identification and use of surplus staff of other categories, promotion of eligible departmental staff and recruitment through Railway Recruitment Boards, etc. Filling of vacant posts is a continuous process.

**Setting up of Wagon Manufacturing Plant at Barauni**

5339. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high level railway team visited Barauni in September 1996 for setting up of Wagon manufacturing plant;

(b) if so, whether the final decision has been taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the total amount required to complete the project; and

(d) the annual expected production of wagons from the above plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. It has been decided not to set up a wagon manufacturing unit in view of the capacities already available in the Private/public sector and some Railway workshops. However, a work for "Setting up facilities for ROH of Airbrake wagons at Barauni" as been approved in the Budget 1997-98.

(c) The anticipated cost of the approved work for the airbrake wagon ROH depot is Rs. 25.00 crores.

(d) Nil as manufacturing facility is not being set up.